



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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20 Quick Tips for your Home & Garden: Spring 2015

Contributed by Chesterfield Master Gardeners

March 2015 Tips

- Now is a great time to plant hardy vegetable crops that mature quickly. Good choices include turnips, radishes, and spring onions. Find out what else you can plant [here](#).
- Mid to end of March is a great time to prune Crapemyrtles but please don't be guilty of "crape murder." Find out how to prune like the pro's do [here](#).
- Curious what else you can prune in March? Shrubs include arborvitae, roses and many more listed [here](#).
- When the [forsythia bloom](#), you can apply a pre-emergent herbicide to your lawn to help prevent any summer weeds. Follow the label – most products need at least ¼ inch water within 48 hours of application.
- Want a beautiful & healthy lawn in 2015? Sign up for our Grassroots program [here](#).

April 2015 Tips

- Want to stay on top of pesky pests in 2015? Check our growing degree days online [here](#).
- Once all danger of frost has passed (April 11-20), you can transplant tender vegetables, such as tomatoes and peppers. Before planting, harden-off by placing outdoors in a sheltered area for a few days.
- Do not prune spring-flowering shrubs until the last flower fade (but before new buds set).
- Divide herbaceous perennials, clumps of bulbs, and ornamental grasses if the garden looks too crowded. Replant or give away!
- Want to divide perennials and do not know where to begin? Find out how [here](#).

May 2015 Tips

- Check your plants for any diseases or insects; bring bugs & diseased plants to our [Master Gardener Help Desk](#) for FREE diagnosis.
- Start fertilizing warm season lawns such as zoysia and Bermudagrass. Most of our lawns in Chesterfield are cool season lawns: fescues, ryegrasses, or bluegrasses. Fertilizing cool season lawns now can stress and predispose it to fungal infections such as brown patch later this summer and increase mowing.
- Get ready for hurricane season. Check trees for damaged or weak branches and prune as needed. Call 804-751-4401 to get our certified arborist list.
- Ensure that your lawn & garden receives 1 inch of water per week. Set out an empty tuna can to measure the amount of rainfall & water early in the morning and deeply.
- Stake any tall plants to help prevent damage.

June 2015 Tips

- Join us on Saturday, June 13th at [Bumblebee Jamboree](#) - a FREE and fun family day celebrating National Pollinator Week. Be sure to check out the butterfly tent, VCU bug lab, and a variety of pollinator craft activities.
- Harvest your vegetables as soon as they are ripe for freshest taste, to prolong production, and to avoid pest issues. Beans, peas, squash, cucumbers, and okra are often ready.
- Remove any dead/finished vegetable plants from your garden by bagging and disposing; plant new crops in their place.
- Plant annuals that can take the full sun during hot summer months, including celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus.
- Do not remove the foliage of spring bulbs until it has yellowed and dried. This feeds the bulbs for next year's blooms.